

We Claim:

Claim 1. In a digital computer system for accessing a plurality of natural language documents stored in a local or remote database comprising

acquiring a first set of documents in response to a user entered request,

the request including criteria identifying a first entity,

processing at least a portion of each document of said first set of documents into an SAO Knowledge Base, and

displaying at least a portion of the Ss or AOs in rank order of having the most to the least AOs or Ss, respectively, associated with the displayed Ss or AOs.

Claim 2. In a system according to Claim 1 further including counting and displaying the total number of SAOs associated with said at least a portion of the Ss or AOs of said first set.

Claim 3. In a system according to Claim 1 further including counting and displaying the total number of AOs or Ss associated with a particular S or AO, respectively, when said particular S or AO is selected by a user command.

Claim 4. In a system according to Claim 1 wherein said criteria further includes a time period within which occurred some common event.

Claim 5. In a system according to Claim 4 wherein said common event includes the filing of a patent application or publication of a technical document.

Claim 6. In a system according to Claim 1 wherein said criteria further includes a characteristic of the entity's activity.

Claim 7. In a system according to Claim 6 wherein said characteristic relates to a particular technical development, design, application, device, or process.

Claim 8. In a digital computer system for accessing a plurality of natural language documents stored in a local or remote database comprising

acquiring a first set and second set of documents in response to user entered requests,

each request including criteria identifying a first entity and a second entity,

processing at least a portion of each document of said first and second sets of documents into an SAO Knowledge Base and,

displaying in association with said first and second entity, respectively, at least a portion of the Ss or AOs of said first and second sets in rank order of having the most to the least AOs or Ss, respectively, associated with the displayed Ss or AOs.

Claim 9. In a system according to Claim 8 wherein said Ss or AOs are displayed in first and second columns,

said first and second columns being associated with said first and second entities, respectively.

Claim 10. In a system according to Claim 8 further including counting and displaying the total number of SAOs associated with said at least a portion of the Ss or AOs of said first and second sets, respectively.

Claim 11. In a system according to Claim 8 further including counting and displaying the total number of AOs or Ss associated with a particular S or AO, respectively, when said particular S or AO is selected by a user command.

Claim 12. In a system according to Claim 8 wherein said criteria further includes a time period within which occurred some common event.

Claim 13. In a system according to Claim 12 wherein said common event includes the filing of a patent application or publication of a technical document.

Claim 14. In a system according to Claim 8 wherein said criteria further includes a characteristic of the first and second entity's activity.

Claim 15. In a system according to Claim 14 wherein said characteristic relates to a particular technical development, design, application, device, or process.

Claim 16. In a system according to Claim 1 wherein the number of the source patents is displayed.

Claim 17. In a system according to Claim 3 wherein the number of source patents are displayed related to said particular S or AO.

Claim 18. In a system according to Claim 8 wherein the number of the source patents is displayed.

Claim 19. In a system according to Claim 11 wherein the number of source patents are displayed related to said particular S or AO.